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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON



PROPOSED CHANGES FOR HARD RED SPRING
AND OTHER WHEAT GRADES.

In the spring of 1921 I received a number of requests for changes in the Federal wheat grades, and in April held a two days' hearing, attended by various people interested in such grades. The evidence submitted did not convince me that the changes proposed were justified. At the conclusion of the hearing I made the following statement:

"The criticism of the present grades warrants a thorough-going investigation, especially as to their practical application at country buying points. I shall make such investigation during the coming wheat-marketing season, and if changes are justified they will be made well in advance of the marketing season next year."

Last summer I secured the services of Mr. L. A. Fitz of the University of Kansas, and Mr. John Lee Coulter of the West Virginia Experiment Station, and asked them to go into the wheat country and make thorough inquiry in the country and at the elevators and mills. I asked Mr. Fitz to serve because of his practical and technical knowledge of the grading and milling of wheat, and Professor Coulter because of his practical experience and his training as an economist. Both are men of very high standing in agricultural work, and undertook the investigation wholly free from prejudice and with no other desire than to gather and present the information necessary to arrive at a just decision. They had a free hand in making their studies and investigations through the summer and fall of 1921. They were fur-

rished with experienced assistants and all of the data previously collected in this Department were made available to them. They spent some months in the wheat country. They have made several reports to me and some recommendations which, if adopted, would involve changes in the present wheat grades. These recommendations which contemplate changes are believed to be correctly summarized and stated here. Their reports are extensive and therefore the detailed explanatory matter and the discussions are omitted. In brief, their suggestions are as follows:

Test Weight Per Bushel.

Let the test weight per bushel be determined upon the basis of the clean wheat, excluding both foreign material other than dockage and dockage. Four views as to grade requirements based on test weight per bushel are presented for consideration:

- a. Let the present minimum test weight of 58 lbs. for hard red spring stand for No. 1, but change No. 2 to 56 lbs., No. 3 to 54 lbs., and No. 4 to 52 lbs., leaving No. 5 the same as at present.
- b. Restore the former test weight per bushel requirement of 59 lbs. for No. 1, leaving the other grades the same as at present.
- c. Provide a new grade at the top with a minimum of 60 lbs.
- d. No change in present test weights.

Moisture Content.

Let the limit of 14 per cent for No. 1 hard red spring and durum wheat stand, but make the same limit apply to all the other grades in these classes. In case any wheat has moisture content in excess of 14 per cent, grade it in the same manner as if it did not have such excess moisture but attach to the grade designation the words "excess moisture" or some similar phrase, together with the percentage of moisture. Apply the same principle to all other classes of wheat, using the present limit for No. 1 in each class as the basis.

Foreign Material Other Than Dockage.

Let the grades be based strictly upon the clean wheat and, therefore, let all foreign material, including dockage, be treated separately. This would mean, for example, that the test weight per bushel would be on the basis of the clean wheat, excluding all foreign material. Limit No. 1 and all other grades to 0.5% of foreign material other than dockage and when the amount of such foreign material other than dockage exceeds 0.5% in any grade, its percentage shall be determined and stated separately in addition to the grade designation, together with a statement of the character of such foreign material, such as wild peas, king-head, rye, flax, etc.

Subclasses of Hard Red Spring Wheat.

Three suggestions are considered and presented:

- a. Drop the red spring subclass.
- b. Retain red spring and raise the requirements of northern spring wheat with respect to dark, hard and vitreous kernels, but no specific percentage recommended.

c. Let the present subclassification stand.

Mixed Wheat.

Consideration is given to the question of the desirability of some change in the provisions for mixed wheat, with special reference to mixtures of hard red spring and durum wheat but without specific recommendation.

While these investigations were being conducted and reports prepared by Messrs. Fitz and Coulter, independent consideration has been given in the Pacific Northwest to the possibility of some change in the standards for white wheats now covered in the common white and white club classes.

Among the suggestions advanced are the following:

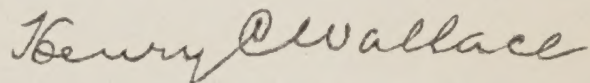
- a. Combine the present classes, common white and white club, into one class designated "white wheat".
- b. Subdivide the new class into three subclasses, designated hard white, soft white, and white walla.
- c. Make the same application of the hard white and soft white subclasses as at present and designate as white walla all white wheats or mixtures of white wheats containing more than ten per cent of white club or sonora.

As ninety days' notice of proposed changes is required, and as it is desirable to have any proposed changes go into effect at the beginning of the marketing of the bulk of the wheat crop of 1922, final decision as to changes must be reached early in April. I am sending this statement

to every grain inspection department, and to organizations of millers, grain dealers, farmers and others having a direct concern with the marketing of wheat, including state authorities having the inspection of wheat under their jurisdiction. I shall not hold further hearings, but invite any who may receive this statement to give careful consideration to the proposals included herewith, and to let me have in writing, not later than March 23, a statement of their views, with the reasons for or against each item, avoiding generalities. Statements and opinions received later than March 23 cannot be considered.

This matter is one of considerable importance, and I hope to have free expression of opinions from those interested. All communications will be given full consideration. The announcement of conclusions will be made at the earliest possible date.

(Signed)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry A. Wallace".

Secretary of Agriculture

March 4, 1922.

to every other investigation, however, was to organization of matters,
grain dealers, farmers and others having a direct concern with the
marketing of wheat, including state marketing having the inspection
of these grain dealer organizations. I shall not hold further hearings,
but invite any who may receive this statement to give personal testimony
either at the appropriate time or by letter, and to let me have in writing
not later than March 15, a statement of their views, with the reasons
for or against each item, awaiting consideration. Statements and opinions
received later than March 15 cannot be considered.
This matter is one of considerable importance, and I hope to
have free expression of opinions from those interested. All communica-
tions will be given full consideration. The announcement of conclusions
will be made at the earliest possible date.

(Signed)
Samuel R. Hilditch
Secretary of Agriculture

March 1, 1931.